

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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reports on the Smiltene District Industrial Combine, the Smiltene Forest Industry Establishment, the Drebricks Artel, the Smiltene Kolchoznieks publishing office, and consumer organizations in Smiltene.

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MEMORANDUM

COUNTRY: USSR (Latvian SSR) DATE: 19 July 1957
 SUBJECT: The Smiltene District Industrial Combine No. pages: 2

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1.

The Smiltene District Industrial Combine occupied one building and several adjacent repair shops and storehouses near the center of Smiltene (N 57-25, E 25-55), Latvian SSR. The function of the combine consisted in directing and managing a number of smaller enterprises. It was also responsible for controlling operations, maintaining machinery and tools, providing all administrative and clerical support as well as transportation for them, and in many instances, helping these smaller enterprises dispose of their production. The combine consisted of the following enterprises:

- a. Two sawmills, one of which was larger than the other and both located at the edge of Smiltene. Each sawmill had a furniture or joiner's shop attached to it. The smaller sawmill took orders from private individuals and public organizations for such items as lumber cut to specifications, window frames, windows, and similar articles. The combine would also receive lumber from the Smiltene Forest Industry Establishment (lespromkhoz). [redacted] the combine purchased this lumber. The smaller sawmill and its attached furniture shop would then use this lumber to turn out such items as wardrobes, chairs, tables and other furniture, as well as elaborately hand-carved coffins which cost 1,200 rubles or more. The combine would then sell these manufactured items throughout the rayon. The larger sawmill was mainly engaged in turning out for the State such items as railroad ties and barrels. It also consisted of a tire-vulcanizing shop, [redacted]

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- b. One blacksmith's shop located in Smiltene: This shop accepted work orders from both private individuals and organizations, such as kolkhozy, and did all types of blacksmith work, such as shoeing horses, banding cartwheels, and placing the metal trim or bands on sled runners;
- c. One dye shop, which dyed material for private individuals and also dyed the production of weaving shops;
- d. One pottery shop, which made pottery to be sold throughout the rayon;
- e. About six mills, which were either steam mills or water mills. Two of these mills were located in Smiltene and the remainder were located

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in Smiltene Rayon. The mills located in the rayon were engaged mainly in milling grain for private farmers. In exchange for this, they received payment in grain, which they in turn processed and sold. The two mills located in the city, for the most part, milled grain for the warehouses for State purchases (zagotserno), but also attended to orders from private individuals. The milling of State grain was performed without compensation as a public service, but for individual orders, payment in kind was exacted. Attached to some of these mills were weaving shops (tkatskaya masterskaya) which produced woollen or other materials or thread, on orders from private individuals. In exchange for their work, the weaving shops received payment in kind, such as raw material, which they in turn processed and sold as a source for revenue;

- f. About three brick factories located throughout Smiltene Rayon. These brick factories turned out bricks ordered by various kolkhozy or other regional organizations, as well as by private individuals, for which they were paid in rubles;
 - g. One electrical radio technical shop, located in the center of Smiltene. This shop employed two men who performed radio repairs, minor electrical repairs, and recharged batteries. Services were paid for in rubles;
 - h. One tin shop, which produced such tinware as milk cans, buckets, and dishpans. This shop received its raw material from Riga and its products were sold throughout the rayon;
 - i. One retail store, where some of the products produced by the enterprises listed above were sold. Items for sale included tinware, pottery, material, harnesses for horses, furniture, barrels, shoe lasts, and coffins.
2. The Smiltene District Industrial Combine directed the entire distribution of all products manufactured by its subsidiary shops and enterprises. The combine had one ZIS-150 truck with side panels, which normally sufficed for all transportation needs of the combine and its subordinate enterprises. If occasionally more vehicles were needed for a specific task, additional vehicles were obtained from a vehicle pool (avtokolonna) located in Riga.
 3. The combine subsisted on the revenue realized from the sale of its products. The more it produced and sold, the more money it earned. The combine paid the Government its taxes and workers received their pay in rubles. [redacted] the combine was not doing well and that often its workers would either receive their pay late or not at all.

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MEMORANDUM

COUNTRY: USSR (Latvian SSR) DATE: 19 July 1957
SUBJECT: The Smiltene Forest Industry No. Pages: 2
Establishment

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1. [REDACTED]
2. The Smiltene Forest Industry Establishment was located about three kilometers south of Smiltene (N 57-25, E 25-55), Latvian SSR, and occupied three to four buildings. One building held offices and the others comprised sleeping quarters for some of the workers, a recreation hall (klub), garages, repair shops, and POL dumps.

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- [REDACTED] The Smiltene Forest Industry Establishment operated in the forests of the three rayons of Smiltene, Ape, and Aluksne. It employed about 450 people, including lumber workers, drivers, technical personnel, and loaders at the railroad station. Approximately 20 percent of the personnel were women. The lumber workers lived in huts in the forests at various lumber points throughout the entire year. On free days, they would go to nearby towns, villages, or settlements to purchase their food and other articles for daily needs. The main task of the establishment consisted in felling trees, sawing them into lumber, and taking the lumber to the Smiltene Railroad Station. Although the ultimate use of the lumber was kept secret, [REDACTED] most of it went for construction material, possibly in mines, while some of it might have been used for the paper industry. The establishment had about 44 trucks, most of which were ZIS-21s, operating on gazogene (wood gas) engines. The hauling norm for each truck and trailer was about 1,200 to 1,300 cubic meters of lumber per month. The felling of trees and preparation of the lumber was accomplished at various lumber stations of varying sizes scattered throughout the area. Most of them had a generator to power electric saws. Most of the work was done mechanically, except for the trimming of branches and foliage.
3. The pay of the workers depended on their production. The normal work day was eight hours, but during the summer period, when the weather was good, the work day would be from 12 to 16 hours. The lumber workers would receive about 600 to 900 rubles, while the drivers might make as much as 1,500 rubles a month. In exceptional cases, some drivers might make as much as 3,000 rubles

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a month.

Inasmuch as driving gazogene trucks was considered harmful, the driver received additional compensation amounting to three percent of their pay. Premiums were also given for driving without accident and for fulfilling or surpassing the norms. There also was a progressive pay scale to provide an incentive for the workers to remain on the job and not to seek easier employment elsewhere. The performance or hauling norms for drivers depended on the conditions of the roads travelled. Roads were classified into four categories, depending on their conditions. Since it was up to the director to classify the roads by categories, he could give drivers an additional advantage by designating a road as belonging to a worse category than it actually did, thus permitting the drivers to achieve a higher performance. Conversely, by designating a road as better than it was in reality, the director could penalize the driver, making it harder for the latter to meet his norms on a bad road which he had classified as a better road.

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MEMORANDUM

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SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Organizations in Smiltene

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Drebnieks Artel

1. The Drebnieks [Clothing] Artel was located in the center of Smiltene (N 57-25, E 25-55). This artel consisted of a sewing or tailoring workshop and a shoe workshop; the shoe workshop was also known as the "Invalids' Artel", because the majority of the workers were invalids. The sewing workshop employed about 25 workers, both male and female, including two cutters. The management staff of the Drebnieks Artel comprised a director, an accountant, and a cashier. The sewing workshop took orders from individuals for all kinds of men's and women's clothing; It also received from the State material out of which it made clothing to be subsequently sold in State stores throughout the district. Personnel working in the sewing workshop included regular tailors who were paid for the work performed, and student or apprentice tailors who received a small fixed salary of about 25 rubles per month. The shoe workshop employed about 25 male workers, mostly invalid deaf and dumb people. It turned out all types of footwear, either on individual orders or for the State, out of leather provided by the State purchasing agencies (zagotzhivsiye).

Consumer or Trade Organizations

2. There were two consumer or trade organizations in the center of Smiltene. The smaller one of the two was known as Consumer Society (potrebobshchestvo). The larger one, known as District Consumer Union (raypotrebsoyuz), was a trade organization which dealt in goods of all possible types, from bottled soda to large appliances; It had in stock goods amounting in value to four million rubles. These goods were received from such large cities as Leningrad and Riga, to be distributed throughout the rayon.

The Smiltene Kolkhoznik

3. Smiltene also had an editorial office which published a newspaper known as the Smiltene Kolkhozniks (kolkhoznik). The office was located in the center of town.

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